

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Although the specification has been objected to because of the definition of “computer-readable medium” on page 11, paragraph 49; the claims have been amended to recite a “computer-readable storage medium” so that non-statutory subject matter is not being claimed. The specification has not been amended to change the definition of “computer-readable medium”. The various Section 101 and 112 objections have been addressed by appropriate amendments.

Each of the independent claims includes a limitation that is not disclosed by or made obvious in view of the prior art. For example, each independent claim recites an “authentication session item” that is “used to start an authentication session”. The authentication session item is sent “during the connection establishment process”.

Note that L. Blunk & J. Vollbrecht does not disclose any actions occurring during the connection establishment process that start an authentication session. Rather, L. Blunk & J. Vollbrecht only show that a request for authentication may be made during a link establishment phase. “If authentication of the link is desired, an implementation MUST specify the Authentication-Protocol Configuration Option during Link Establishment phase.” L. Blunk & J. Vollbrecht at Section 1, second paragraph. “EAP does not select a specific authentication mechanism at Link Control Phase, but rather postpones this until the Authentication Phase.” L. Blunk & J. Vollbrecht at Section 2, first paragraph, lines 3-5.

Various dependent claims include further steps in a handshaking process to proceed with and complete authentication during the connection establishment process.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly sought. The undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number below at the Examiner's convenience if it would help in the prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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